



Community Link

Whanganui District Council
101 Guyton Street
PO Box 637, Whanganui 4500
06 349 0001
wdc@whanganui.govt.nz
www.whanganui.govt.nz
@whanganuidistrictcouncil
@WhanganuiDC

Toward a Restorative City – restorative tools used in code of conduct

The Council’s commitment to becoming a Restorative City is a step closer, with Whanganui District Councillors adopting the principles of restorative practices in their code of conduct.

Restorative practices, which are used throughout the world, are based on the concept of a whole community working together to develop respectful relationships between individuals, groups, families and workplaces. The mission statement of the Whanganui Restorative Practices Trust is: *Creating the environment for all Whanganui people to thrive and succeed together through respectful relationships.*

Jenny Saywood, Chair of Whanganui Restorative Practices Trust, says a Restorative City is where everyone in the community feels they belong, is valued for who they are, takes responsibility for their actions, is tolerant of differing views and has the opportunity to contribute to the collective well-being.



Councillors and the Restorative Practices Trust at a workshop in the Council Chamber

The Trust was approached by the Council’s legal officer to ask if they would be involved in the discussion when the Council reviewed the Councillors’ code of conduct. The code of conduct determines how Councillors should behave when acting toward each other, Council staff and the public, as well as how potential breaches are addressed.

“We go where we are invited, so we relished the opportunity to be part of the way Councillors deal with any conflict or difference of opinion which may arise. The essence of restorative practice is that by developing respectful relationships and using a range of tools, conflict can be addressed by the people involved, the harm is understood and acknowledged and trust is rebuilt,” says Ms Saywood.

“For example, if the code of conduct is breached by a Councillor and they acknowledge they have created harm, a trained restorative practices facilitator will prepare for and organise a face-to-face meeting to work through the issue and aim toward a positive outcome for everyone.

“The Trust believes the inclusion of restorative practices in the code of conduct is a beneficial way to address issues which have caused people to feel hurt or mistreated.”

Mayor Hamish McDouall says he is pleased the Whanganui District Council is the first in New Zealand to incorporate restorative practices into the Councillor’s code of conduct.

“Whanganui is the first Restorative City in the country, so using restorative practices in our code of conduct makes perfect sense as well as being an innovative way to reduce conflict. As the Councillors are leaders in our community, it’s important we work together to make Whanganui an even better place to live. This demonstrates real commitment to the way we support each other, which in turn should benefit our community.

“Councillors and a number of Council staff, including senior leaders, have attended Restorative Practices workshops. The one organised for Councillors was very well attended and the feedback has been very positive,” Mayor McDouall says.

To find out more about Restorative Practices Whanganui, please visit www.restorativepracticeswhanganui.co.nz



Searching for our local heroes

Entries for the Trustpower Whanganui District Community Awards are now open, giving locals the opportunity to recognise the dedication of volunteers and voluntary groups within our community.

Run in partnership with the Council, these awards are open to all voluntary groups and organisations to celebrate the work they do to make our district a better place to live. Anyone can enter a group into the awards – voluntary groups and organisations can even enter themselves.

The awards cover five categories: Heritage and Environment, Health and Well-being, Arts and Culture, Sport and Leisure, and Educational and Child/Youth Development. Category winners receive \$500, runners-up receive \$250 and the Supreme Winner will take home \$1,500 and an all-expenses-paid trip to the 2017 Trustpower National Community Awards held in Queenstown in April 2018. Last year’s Supreme Winner was the Bushy Park Trust.

Entry forms are available from the Council’s Municipal Building, 101 Guyton Street and the Davis Central City and Gonville Café Libraries, online at www.trustpower.co.nz/communityawards or on the Trustpower Community Facebook page. Entry forms can also be received by calling Alice Boyd on 0800 871 111 ext. 4176.

Entries for the Trustpower Whanganui District Community Awards close at 5.00pm on Friday 18 August 2017.

Planned works

For a full list of planned works in the Whanganui District please visit www.whanganui.govt.nz/plannedworks

Update to duty hours Planning team

Our planning team is changing its duty hours for assisting with public enquiries. If you require information about town planning-related matters, please contact the Council between 1.00pm to 5.00pm, Monday to Friday, either by phone on 349 0001 or in person, and a member of the planning team will be available to assist you. These hours will come into effect on Monday 3 July 2017.

Flush your taps daily

Ministry of Health public notice

Some plumbing fittings have the potential to allow minute traces of metals to accumulate in water standing in the fittings for several hours.

Although the health risk is small, the Ministry of Health recommends that you flush a mugful of water from your drinking-water tap each morning before use to remove any metals that may have dissolved from the plumbing fittings.

We recommend this simple precaution for all households, including those on public and private water supplies.

Director-General of Health

Council meetings

We welcome members of the public to attend our meetings.

Council meeting	1.00pm, Tuesday, July 4	Council Chamber
Strategy and Finance Committee	1.00pm, Thursday, July 6	Council Chamber
Youth Committee	4.00pm, Monday, July 10	Council Chamber
Statutory Management Committee *	9.00am, Tuesday, July 11	Council Chamber
Statutory Management Committee **	1.00pm, Tuesday, July 18	Council Chamber

* Submissions hearings on the District Plan Review (Plan Change 50), Proposed Dangerous and Insanitary Buildings Policy (TBA), Draft Whanganui Smokefree Outdoor Areas Policy, Draft Active Transport Strategy (TBA)

Council meeting To strike the rates for 2017/18	1.00pm, Wednesday, July 19	Council Chamber
Infrastructure and Special Projects	1.30pm, Wednesday, July 19	Council Chamber

Agendas are available at the Customer Services Counter, Municipal Office Building, 101 Guyton Street and the District Library two working days prior to the meeting. Our monthly Council meetings are live-streamed on www.facebook.com/whanganuidistrictcouncil

Do you own a Pit Bull or Pit Bull cross?

For a limited time we are offering free neutering for all Pit Bulls and Pit Bull cross types in the Whanganui District.

Register your interest with us and our Animal Management team will get in touch. Phone us on 349 0001 or visit: www.whanganui.govt.nz/neutering-registration

